



SOLVAY

DIRECTION CENTRALE RECHERCHE & TECHNOLOGIE
INTELLECTUAL ASSETS MANAGEMENT

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European Patent Application No. 05701566.1
Patentee : SOLVAY (Société Anonyme)

**REPLY TO THE COMMUNICATION OF 11.01.2007 PURSUANT
TO ARTICLE 96(2) EPC**

In reply to the above-captioned communication, the Applicant submits herewith in enclosure 1 a set of amended claims in replacement of the set currently pending. A copy of the claims where the amendments are apparent is provided in enclosure 2.

1. AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the content of claim 2 and by indicating that the particles comprise a core of precipitated calcium carbonate. The support for that last amendment can be found in the description on page 2, lines 19-24.

New claim 1 reads as follows :

1- Particles comprising a core of precipitated calcium carbonate and a coating covering at least part of the surface of the core, the coating being carried out in at least two distinct consecutive steps, each step using a different coating agent, a first coating agent selected from alkylsulfates, sulfonic acids, carboxylic acids, their salts and their esters, fatty alcohols, polyhydric alcohols or mixture thereof, being used in the first step, and a second coating agent selected from polyhydric alcohols, esters of carboxylic acids, or mixtures thereof, being used in the second step.

Claim 2 has been removed.

Claims 3 to 9 have been renumbered accordingly.